IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

1.   (Original) A method comprising:

fixing a logical identifier for a signal line at an egress interface;

mapping a first physical identifier for a first physical signal line to the logical

identifier; and

remapping a second physical identifier for a second physical signal line to the logical

identifier responsive to a line failure on the first physical signal line.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein mapping comprises:

writing to a cross connect table and wherein remapping comprises rewriting the cross

connect table.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1 further comprising:

switching a signal from a second physical signal line to a physical line corresponding

to the logical identifier responsive to the remapping.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein fixing comprises:

assigning an identifier to each port of the egress interface during initialization; and

preventing change to the identifier after initialization.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the signal line is a synchronous optical networking (SONET) line.

6.   (Original) An apparatus comprising:

a bus interface;

An egress time slot interchange (ETSI) module;

a switch fabric coupled to the ETSI module;

an egress time slot interchange (ETSI) module having a plurality of inputs, each input

assigned a logical identifier which remains fixed after initialization; and

a translation module to translate an incoming signal identifier to one of the logical

identifiers independent of a physical line on which the signal is received.

7.   (Original) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the translation module comprises:

a cross connect table.

8.   (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 6 further comprising:

a bus coupled to the bus interface;

a termination module coupled to the bus; and

a line interface having an optical to electrical (O/E) and electrical to optical (E/O)

converter.

9.   (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 6 wherein the apparatus is implemented

as an ASIC on a backplane of a line card.

10.   (New) A machine-readable medium having instructions, when executed by a machine, causes the machine to perform a method, the method comprising:

fixing a logical identifier for a signal line at an egress interface;

mapping a first physical identifier for a first physical signal line to the logical

identifier; and

remapping a second physical identifier for a second physical signal line to the logical

identifier responsive to a line failure on the first physical signal line.

11.   (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 10, wherein mapping comprises writing to a cross connect table and wherein remapping comprises rewriting the cross connect table.

12.   (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the method further comprises switching a signal from a second physical signal line to a physical line corresponding to the logical identifier responsive to the remapping.

13.   (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 10, wherein fixing comprises:

assigning an identifier to each port of the egress interface during initialization; and

preventing change to the identifier after initialization.

14.   (New) The machine-readable medium of claim 10, wherein the signal line is a synchronous optical networking (SONET) line.